



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 27 JANUARY, 2015

Town of Happy-Valley Goose Bay and YMCA agree to letter of intent

St. John's, NL Today, as part of attending the Northern Exposure 2015 Labrador Opportunity Conference and Trade Show, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the YMCA signed an agreement to work together on the Town's proposed Wellness Centre project. Both Town Council and the YMCA Board of Directors have approved a letter of intent to guide discussions.

"The Town is extremely excited to be working with the YMCA toward making this project a reality for citizens of our community. The YMCA works in partnership with municipalities across the country and the expertise of the YMCA will be of great assistance to us," says Mayor Jamie Snook.

The YMCA recently successfully completed a \$20 million project in St. John's. The YMCA involves thousands of people in health, employment, and child care programs throughout the province.

The Town has been working toward this project for many months. A community survey has been completed, an architectural firm has been engaged to lead public consultations, and a capital campaign director will be hired to lead the Town's fundraising efforts. Discussions with the provincial government regarding funding are on-going.

Under the letter of intent, the Town and the YMCA will discuss how the YMCA could be an operator of the proposed new facility once construction is complete. The Town would be the owner of the facility and the YMCA would operate any aquatics, gymnasium, exercise, day camp, or child care programs. The facility may also include an ice rink, curling club, and other amenities to be operated by other groups.

"The YMCA is delighted to be entering into these discussions toward an operating agreement. Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a great community, and we are proud to be working with the Town," says YMCA CEO Jason Brown. "This would be the first permanent YMCA presence in Labrador."

After the public consultation, the project would move to a preliminary design stage. The Town, Mr. Brown, and consultants will tour similar facilities in other parts of Canada to learn more.

According to Mayor Snook, "we are at the very beginning of a multi-year process, and we are looking forward to very positive next steps."

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Contact: Mayor Jamie Snook
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL

Jason Brown, YMCA CEO 709-693-1528
St. John's, NL